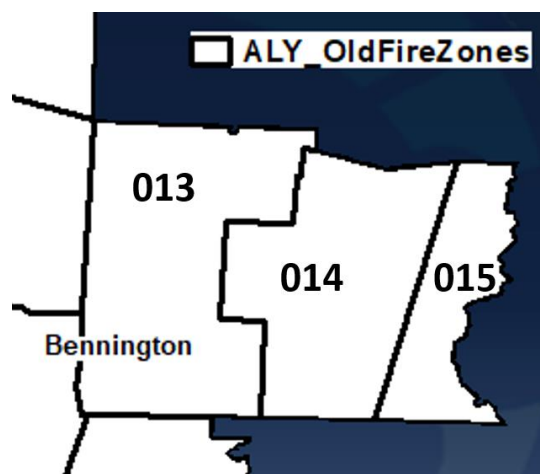


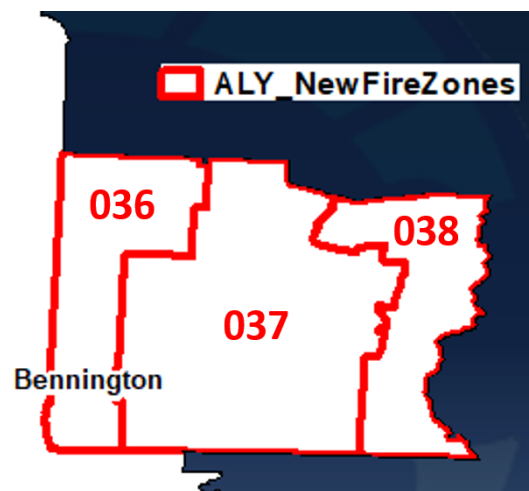
Fire Weather Zone Changes for Vermont

Overview

Effective Tuesday March 22th, 2022, at 4PM EDT, the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Albany, NY (ALY) will change the Vermont fire weather zones within our County Warning Area (CWA). The boundaries of the three current fire weather zones in southern Vermont will be adjusted slightly based on common topography, fuels, and weather. Below are graphics depicting the changes to our fire weather zones.



Old Fire Weather Zones



New Fire Zones

Justification

Recently there has been a significant rework of the nationwide system for predicting wildfire danger (NFDRS 2016). The NFDRS 2016 system has tasked state fire and land management agencies with reassessing and editing Fire Danger Rating Areas (FDRAs), which are geographic zones consisting of similar fuels, topography, and weather conditions. Our current fire weather zones tend to be more county based and do not necessarily consider these important elements (fuels, topography, and weather) that the new FDRAs are based on. Thus aligning our fire weather zones with the new FDRAs would better connect fire danger outputs with our suite of fire weather products (Fire Weather Planning Forecast, Fire Weather Watches, and Red Flag Warnings) to support the needs of our fire weather partners and the public.

Representatives from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation have provided us with their new FDRAs. We are in full support of the areas they created. These changes have been coordinated with other agencies associated with our fire weather program (Green Mountain National Forest and Vermont Emergency Management).

Table 1. WFO ALY's Affected Fire Weather Zones

Current Fire Weather Zone/UGC	New Fire Weather Zone/UGC
Bennington / VTZ013 Western Windham / VTZ014 Eastern Windham / VTZ015	Southern Taconics / VTZ036 Southern Greens / VTZ037 Lower Connecticut Valley South / VTZ038

Table 2. WFO ALY's Products Affected by These Changes

Product Name	WMO Header	AWIPS ID
Fire Weather Planning Forecast	FNUS51 KALY	FWFALY
Fire Weather Watch/Red Flag Warning	WWUS81 KALY	RFWALY

If you are affected by these changes, take the appropriate actions so your system(s) recognize the new zone Universal Geographic Codes (UGC) and the new zone alignments.

The proposed changes to the ALY fire weather zones have been closely coordinated with our local partners.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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